

## Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

USIA-06 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 RSC-01 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 284

INFO USMISSION USUN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L KATHMANDU 5132

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY BUFFUM FROM AMBASSADOR CARGO

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, CB, KN, KS, NP

SUBJ: KHMER AND KOREA IN 29TH UNGA: NEPAL

REFS: (A) STATE 273340

(B) KATHMANDU 5095

1. I CALLED ON FONMIN KARKI AGAIN TODAY TO DISCUSS KHMER CREDENTIALS ISSUE AND KOREAN MATTERS IN UNGA.

2. ON KOREA, I TOLD FONMIN KARKI THAT USG APPRECIATED TIMELY REASSESSMENT BY GON OF ITS POSITION ON KOREAN ISSUE, WHICH RESULTED IN GON REVISING INSTRUCTIONS TO ITS UN DEL. WE HOPED GON WOULD AT LEAST ABSTAIN IN THE VOTING IN THE PLENARY. I INDICATED ALSO THAT WE WERE PUZZLED BY GON NEGATIVE VOTE ON PROCEDURAL MOTION NOT TO VOTE ON ALGERIAN RES, AS IT WAS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT NEPAL'S UN DEL HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO ABSTAIN ON ALL ASPECTS OF KOREAN QUESTION. KARKI CONFIRMED THIS AND ADDED THAT AFTER HAVING BEEN INFORMED BY EMBASSY YESTERDAY OF GON'S NEGATIVE PROCEDURAL VOTE, HE HAD ASKED UPADHYAY FOR AN EXPLANATION. KARKI SAID THAT INSTRUCTIONS WOULD BE SENT TO UPADHYAY TO ABSTAIN ON ALL ASPECTS OF THE KOREAN QUESTION IN THE PLENARY.

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2. ON CAMBODIA, I TOLD KARKI THAT I HAD BEEN ASKED BY WASHINGTON TO REAFFIRM OUR GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT WITH NEPAL'S VOTE IN THE GA ON KHMER REPRESENTATION. NOTING THAT WE WERE PERHAPS NOT YET THROUGH WITH THE KHMER ISSUE IN THE CURRENT GENERAL ASSEMBLY, I POINTED OUT THAT, IN SPITE OF POSITIVE ACTION BY THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE, THERE WAS POSSIBILITY OF CHALLENGE ON KHMER CREDENTIALS WHEN THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT REACHES THE PLENARY. IN SUCH EVENT, WE HOPED GON WOULD VOTE AGAINST CHALLENGE AND SUPPORT REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE. I STRESSED HEAVILY THE IMPROPRIETY OF USING THE REPORT OF A TECHNICAL BODY TO PRECIPITATE A MAJOR POLITICAL DEBATE, PARTICULARLY SINCE IN THIS CASE THE KHMER QUESTION HAD BEEN FULLY DEBATED AND VOTED UPON UNDER A SEPARATE ITEM ASSIGNED TO THE POLITICAL COMMITTEE OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. I SAID THAT REGARDLESS OF THE POSITION NEPAL HAD TAKEN ON THE SUBSTANCE OF THE ISSUE, I FELT THAT THEY COULD TAKE A STAND AGAINST AN IMPROPER EFFORT TO TURN THE REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE INTO A GENERAL POLITICAL DEBATE WHICH WOULD BE TANTAMOUNT TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECIDING TO RECONSIDER THE KHMER ISSUE. WE HOPED, THEREFORE, THAT THE GON WOULD AGREE WITH OUR POSITION THAT CREDENTIALS ARE ESSENTIALLY A TECHNICAL MATTER AND THAT THE REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE SHOULD NOT BE USED AS A VEHICLE TO REOPEN A MAJOR POLITICAL DECISION ALREADY TAKEN BY THE GA.

3. KARKI TOOK THIS ARGUMENT ABOARD BUT DID NOT GO BEYOND A STATEMENT THAT THEY WOULD PROMPTLY CONSIDER THIS ISSUE. HE SAID THAT ANY CHANGE IN THE GON POSITION AT THIS POINT WOULD BE DIFFICULT AS NEPAL'S POSITION ON THE CAMBODIA QUESTION HAD ALREADY BEEN INDICATED. ON A MORE GENERAL PLANE, HE SAID THAT THERE WAS A PROBLEM FOR NEPAL OF BEING CONSISTENT ON CAMBODIA, REFERRING TO NEPAL'S VOTES AT THE PREVIOUS GA. HE SAID THAT NEPAL COULD NOT ALWAYS BE CHANGING ITS POSITION ON UN ISSUES.

4. IN RESPONSE, I AGAIN STATED THE REASONS WHY THE REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE SHOULD NOT BE TREATED AS A SUBSTANTIVE EXAMINATION OF THE KHMER QUESTION. ACCORDINGLY, NEPAL COULD OPPOSE A CHALLENGE TO THE REPORT OF THE CREDENTIALS

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COMMITTEE ON GROUNDS OF SOUND UNGA PROCEDURE WITHOUT THIS CALLING INTO QUESTION ITS BASIC POSITION ON CAMBODIA.

5. ON THE QUESTION OF NEPAL'S BASIC POSITION ON CAMBODIA, I SUGGESTED TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER THAT THE QUESTION OF CONSISTENCY DID NOT NEED TO BE TROUBLESOME. THE ISSUE LAST YEAR WAS ONE OF POSTPONEMENT, WHEREAS THIS YEAR THE QUESTION WAS ONE OF UN SUPPORT FOR NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN THE PARTIES

CONCERNED TO RESOLVE THE CAMBODIAN PROBLEM. I SAID THAT WE WERE MOST SURPRISED THAT NEPAL WOULD TAKE A POSITION APPEARING TO OPPOSE SUCH NEGOTIATIONS. I ALSO SAID THAT I HAD CLOSELY FOLLOWED NEPAL'S VOTES IN THE PAST ON UN ISSUES AND HAD BEEN IMPRESSED BY THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE VOTING OF THE GON TRULY REFLECTED A NONALIGNED POSITION. HOWEVER, IT WAS MY OPINION THAT NEPAL'S VOTE ON CAMBODIA WAS NOT TRULY NONALIGNED AND STOOD IN GREAT CONTRAST TO NEPAL'S GENERAL POSTURE. RETURNING TO KARKI'S COMMENT ON THE NEED FOR CONSISTENCY, I SAID THAT IF THE GON DESIRED TO MODIFY THE POSITION IT HAD TAKEN UP ON CAMBODIA, AS I HOPED WAS THE CASE, THERE SHOULD BE NO GREAT PROBLEM FOR THEM ON THE MATTER OF CONSISTENCY, SINCE WE WERE CLEARLY IN A VERY DIFFERENT PHASE OF UN CONSIDERATION OF THE KHMER QUESTION THAN WE HAD BEEN IN THE PAST. KARKI DID NOT RESPOND TO THESE POINTS.

6. AS NOTED, IN ALL THIS LENGTHY DISCUSSION KARKI DID NOT GO BEYOND THE STATEMENT THAT HE WOULD REVIEW THE KHMER ISSUE IN RELATION TO THE CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE REPORT. CARGO

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